

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 CCO-00

NSCE-00 ( ISO ) R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAF:RVFIMBRES - USOAS:FJMCNEIL:

APPROVED BY ARA:HARYAN

S/PRS:JHTRATNER

S/S -CLJOHNSTONE

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P 230058Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 120671 TOSEC 010257

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OASGA

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOR SECRETARY FROM RYAN

BILL ROGERS GAVE AN UP-BEAT BRIEFING TO THE PRESS MAY 21 ON THE RESULTS OF THE OASGA. HE REFERRED TO LIEVANO'S COMMENT TO YOU THAT WITHOUT QUALIFICATION THE MEETING WAS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THE HISTORY OF THE OAS. BILL UNDERLINED THAT THIS IS OUR VIEW AS WELL. HE GAVE CREDIT TO SEVERAL THINGS FOR THE GOOD OUTCOME: FIRST, THE SCRUBBING OF THE GENERAL DEBATE AND THE REPLACEMENT BY OFF-THE-RECORD PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS AMONG THE MINISTERS; SECOND, AND NOT UNRELATED TO THE FOREGOING, THE REMARKABLY LOW INCIDENCE OF CONFRONTATION, WHICH OCCURRED IN OTHER MEETINGS; THIRD, YOUR STRONG PARTICIPATION AND ASSURANCES THAT THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE GREEN AMENDMENT, AND, FINALLY, YOUR ASSURANCES THAT WE WERE GOING TO INTERPRET AND APPLY THE OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT IN THE SPIRIT OF LIBERALIZING THE WORLD TRADE SYSTEM.

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IN ADDITION, HE ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO THE JOINT RESOLU-

TION ON PANAMA AND TO OUR FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS THE FIRST TIME THE U.S. HAD SPOKEN IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THIS ISSUE.

IN FINISHING HIS OPENING REMARKS, BILL TOLD THE PRESS THAT WE HAD WORKED OUT WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS A SENSIBLE CALENDAR WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE OF THE OAS -- INCLUDIWG IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE MEETING IN SAN JOSE ON REFORM OF THE RIO TREATY. HE CONCLUDED THAT BASICALLY THESE WERE THE MAJOR ELEMENTS BEHIND OUR SHARING WITH LIEVANO THE VIEW THAT THIS WAS A MOST SUCCESSFUL GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

IN THE EXCHANGE THAT FOLLOWED, HARDLY ANYONE RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN CUBA. MOST WERE ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN SAN JOSE. BILL REITERATED OUR SUPPORT FOR THE RIO TREATY VOTING CHANGE AND OUR EXPECTATION THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED IN SAN JOSE ON AMENDING THE TREATY. HE TOLD THEM OUR POSTURE ON CUBA REMAINED THE SAME AS YOU HAD EXPRESSED AT HOUSTON. ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, HE OBSERVED TO MARILYN BERGER THAT A PRESS CONFERENCE WAS NOT THE PROPER FORUM FOR CONDUCTING OUR POLICY ON ATTITUDES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH CUBA. THEREFORE, HE PREFERRED NOT TO EXPAND ON THE PUBLIC RECORD. FINALLY, HE ALSO TRIED TO CLEAR UP SOME EVIDENT CONFUSION ABOUT THE MEXICAN RESOLUTION ON CUBA, POINTING OUT THAT IT HAD NO LEGAL EFFECT AND THAT SOME FORMAL ACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN AT SAN JOSE FOR THE SANCTIONS TO BE LIFTED. INGERSOLL

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